



WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Spring - 2023

BWWC

1424 9th Avenue
PO Box 201601
Helena MT 59620-1601
406-444-6643

BOARD MEMBERS

James Madison, MBMG Member
Doug Askin, Industry Member
Pat Byrne, Industry Member
Andy Eslinger, Industry Member
Will Hayes Indursry Member
Dan O'Keefe, Industry Member
Reed Miner, DEQ Member
Steve Story, DNRC Member
Art Robinson, Program Manager



IN THIS ISSUE

1. Board Appointees
2. License Renewals
Number of Licenses
3. Variances
Yellowstone
Controlled
Groundwater Area
4. Bookmark Websites

Senate Confirms Board's Appointees

Doug Askin, Andy Eslinger, Dan O'Keefe and Will Hayes appointments to the Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC) have been confirmed by the Senate. Senate Resolution (SR) 44 which contained the Board Members confirmation was presented to the Senate Natural Resource Committee. Ms. Ronda Wiggers represented the Montana Water Well Drillers Association and Ms. Kristen Juras, Montana Lieutenant Governor representing the Governor's office spoke in favor their appointments. BWWC Program Manager Art Robinson, presented information concerning each appointee. The Senate Natural Resource Committee and the full Senate passed their confirmations by unanimous vote.

Meet Pat Byrne:

30 years as an appointee from the Governor's office. Pat was first appointed in July 1992 by then Governor Stephens. Pat began serving as Chairman of the Board in 1997. Pat was involved with the BWWC prior to his appointment. In the mid to late 1980's, Pat was on the committee that developed specific rules for mandatory water well construction which was the first complete set of well construction standards. These water well and monitoring well construction standards and licensing format are still in place today. Pat is a past president of the Montana Water Well Drillers Association.



Meet Will Hayes:




Will has been a licensed well driller in Montana since 1979 and has owned & operated Hayes Drilling in Livingston for the past thirty years. He started out drilling on a cable tool rig, eventually graduating to an air rotary. He worked for himself and several companies in Southwest Montana before going on

to work for Ruen Drilling which took him all over the western United States and Peru drilling exploration, geotechnical, monitor and water wells. After tiring of the constant travel, Will went back to drilling and servicing water wells in southwest Montana.

As a member of the Montana Water Well Driller's Association, Will was elected to the Board of Directors for twelve years and served three years as president. During that time, the Association was quite active with legislative issues challenging the industry and started the association scholarship fund and quarterly newsletter. Will is also a long-time member and Certified Well Driller with the National Groundwater Association.

When not working, Will enjoys spending time with his wife Kristi, son Bryce, who is currently attending the University of Montana, golfing, camping, boating, fishing and following his granddaughter's high school sporting events.



Next Board Meeting
May 12, 2023
10am
DNRC Water Resources
Building 1st floor Fred
Buck Conf-Room,
9th and Roberts
Helena MT



License Renewals

As it will soon be time to renew your licenses, we thought this would be a good time to review the license renewal process. License renewal notices are mailed out after April 15th, giving you lots of time to send in the renewal application, fee, proof continuing education and proof of bonding before your current license expires on June 30th

Montana Code Annotated section 37-43-307, provides that any license which is not renewed by June 30th is considered suspended. If the license remains suspended more than 30 days after July 1st, it is considered revoked. However, before revoking the license, the Board will send a notice to the licensee of intent to revoke. This letter is mailed to the licensee on or before July 10th. If the license has not been renewed by August 1st, it will be automatically revoked and cannot be reinstated without filling out application to take a driller's exam, make the payment of the application fee and successful complete the appropriate exam with a 80% minimum passing score.

Important dates for license renewals:

April 15	Renewal notices are mailed to the licensees
June 30	Licenses expire
July 1	Licenses are suspended; the licensee is not allowed to drill
July 10	Late fee applied (\$150) and letter of intent to revoke license mailed
August 1	Licenses are revoked

When submitting the license renewal application the following is required:

- Completed renewal form including current address and phone number
- the correct fee
- proof of bonding
- proof of completion of 4 hours of continuing education

Licenses can be renewed electronically through the use of the links on the Board of Water Well Contractors' (Board) web site and email. Drillers will need to fill out all required information, when completed, the licensee will use the submit tab. The form will be sent to a Board's data base. An acknowledgment email of the renewal form submission will be sent to the licensee and a notification email of the renewal form will be sent to the Board's office.

Proof of continuing education and proof of current bond may be scanned and attached to the on-line application; or be sent in an email; or be mailed to Boards office. Payment of the license renewal fee can be made on-line with the use of a credit card. A processing fee will be added to the license fee. The credit card payment link can be found on the Board's web site.

The electronic license renewal form link and the credit card payment link can be found on the Board's web page: bwwc.mt.gov.

Send scanned copies to email address: arobinson@mt.gov

Administrative Rule of Montana 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10th will pay a \$150 late fee. Licensees will be charge with a late fee if the documentation for bonding or for continuing education is submitted after July 10th, even if the original renewal form was sent in prior to this date. In past years there have been licensees that have abused the system and took months to submit the proper documentation hence the need to enforce the letter of the law. Please contact the Board of Water Well Contractor's office if you have questions. (406) 444-6643

Number of Licenses: 243

- ❖ 126 Water Well Contractors
- ❖ 38 Water Well Drillers
- ❖ 59 Monitoring Well Constructors
- ❖ 5 Water Well Driller/Monitoring Well Constructors
- ❖ 15 Inactive licenses

New licenses January 1, 2022 – March 1, 2023

- ❖ 9 Water Well Contractors
- ❖ 6 Monitoring Well Constructors
- ❖ 8 Water Well Drills



photo credit

Meet our New Administrative Support for DNRC

Amanda Peterson

Amanda is a multitasking machine! As an administrative support for DNRC, she's constantly on the go. But when she's not in the office, you can find her belting out karaoke tunes, treading the boards of local theaters, whipping up delicious baked goods, or expressing her artistic side as a painter. And did we mention she's a mother of five? She truly does it all!



VARIANCES

There is a provision in the minimum standards for water wells that covers unusual situations that might arise when you are drilling a well. Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 36.21.680 provides that a variance must be obtained before construction of a well that does not meet minimum standards. The contractor must request the variance from the Board of Water Well Contractors office in writing.

The request must contain:

- 1) the purpose of the well construction
- 2) the location of the well
- 3) the name and address of the well owner
- 4) the distance to the nearest well, septic tank, drain field, or other hazardous wastes surface or subsurface
- 5) the unusual conditions existing at the well site
- 6) the reasons that the compliance with the rules for minimum standards will not result in a satisfactory well
- 7) the proposed standards that the water well contractor believes will be adequate for his particular well
- 8) a drawing with written explanation showing the pertinent features of the proposed well design and construction

The Board office will act promptly on all requests. Applying for the variance before constructing a well that will not meet minimum standards could prevent you from having to return and construct the well to minimum standards or having action taken against your license. If the Board finds that the special circumstances beyond the control of the contractor make compliance with existing standards impossible or otherwise unreasonably difficult and finds that the proposed variance will protect the public and the groundwater resources, the board may approve the proposed construction. Variances are not, however, granted in cases where the water well contractor cannot meet the criteria outlined above. In other words, a variance will not be granted because a particular contractor doesn't want to comply with Board law and rules.



Petrie welding

Yellowstone Controlled Groundwater Area

Are you prepared to encounter artesian pressures, hot water, or maybe heaving sands? These are all possibilities when drilling in the Yellowstone Controlled Groundwater Area (YCGA). Along with being prepared for extreme drilling conditions, some permitting requirements exist that you should know about.

A Controlled Groundwater Area was established in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) in January 1994. This area is in portions of Montana that are within about 16 miles of YNP's boundary and includes Cooke City, Gardiner, West Yellowstone, and the Corwin Springs area. The purpose of the YCGA is to protect the geothermal features in YNP from being affected by groundwater withdrawals from wells. The YCGA was created through negotiations between the State of Montana and the National Park Service. Certain restrictions, limitations, and requirements for new wells in this area exist that you should be aware of.

Persons intending to use groundwater in the Area are required to apply for a water-use permit before putting any water to use. The groundwater temperature and specific conductance must be measured and reported to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC). MT DNRC has asked area drillers for assistance in obtaining these measurements. Per Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 36.12.1206), the temperature that must be reported on the well log report form is of the water produced when the well is completed. This should be taken at the end of an air test or pumping period and only after the temperature of the water has remained constant for several minutes. The water sample for specific conductance must be collected and recorded using the same procedure. The temperature of the water could increase during an air test if the air is hot and especially if the yield of the well is low. Therefore, if the water temperature is 60°F or more during an air test, it is recommended that the well be pumped to more accurately determine the water temperature. Specific conductance can also be measured by YNP staff or MT DNRC staff in the Bozeman Office, if these alternatives are preferred.

If groundwater produced by a completed well is 60 °F or warmer, a permit cannot be issued unless certain conditions are met. Because of this requirement, the MT DNRC recommends that water temperature be monitored as the well is drilled so that any zones in which cooler water is encountered can be identified. Drillers need to be prepared to fully abandon a well, in a manner that fits the conditions, if hot water is encountered that cannot be permitted. Additional information on the YCGA is available from both the Bozeman MT DNRC office at (406) 586-3136 or the MT Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) at (406) 496-4765.



Keri Strasheim, DNRC Bozeman Regional Office Manager, provided technical assistance with this article.

WEBSITES TO BOOKMARK

The Internet is a huge information bank and finding what you are looking for can be time consuming and frustrating. Provided below is a list of websites that relate to the BWWC.

- Board of Water Well Contractors
The BWWC web page with links, dates, newsletter, information for drillers and Board members contact information www.bwwc.mt.gov

- Ground-Water Information Center
Provides ground water information and filed well logs
<http://mbmgwic.mtech.edu/>

- On-Line CE Classes
Internet access to Board approved on line continuing education classes
www.welldrillingschool.com

- Administrative Rules of Montana
Provides the Rules for the BWWC
<http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=36.21>

- Well Log Report Forms
Contains the Well Log Report Form 603 for drillers
https://dnrc.mt.gov/_docs/water/603-R2-04.pdf